



THE VALLEY PATRIOT

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2004

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Lawrence Firefighters are Calling Mayor DePena "Unethical" & "Corrupt"



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Last November the Lawrence Firefighters Union endorsed Brian DePena for Mayor, but now they are waging an all out war against the mayor for trying to create a position in the fire department for one of his campaign supporters. Firefighters say he is not qualified; the Mayor says the department needs "equity and inclusion" among the higher ranks.

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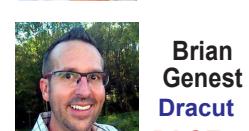
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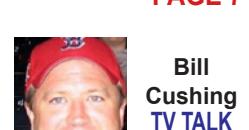
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VALLEY PATRIOT OF THE MONTH

Lawrence U.S. Navy Veteran Ed Nasser

John Cuddy

VALLEY PATRIOT HERO REPORTER

The Silent Generation

Lawrence's Edmund "Ed" Nasser is a US Navy Veteran, who dedicated his entire life to his family, his church, and his community. He is well known in the Merrimack Valley through an involvement with St Patrick's Church for most of his adult life. Ed Nasser grew up in South Lawrence where he

attended the Wetherbee School and Lawrence High School.

After high school, Ed served in the US Navy as a Petty Officer 3rd Class on the aircraft carrier, USS Cabot CVL-28. His US Navy rating was Machinist Mate Industrial Gas Generating or MMG. The rating was originally established as the Finisher rating in 1880, then renamed Machinist in 1884. The Navy reverted to original name of Finisher in 1895, but

sailors preferred the name Machinist's Mate, and that became official in 1904. Another of the engine room ratings, Boiler Technician (BT) was merged with the Machinist's Mate rating on October 1, 1996.

During World War II and the Korean War, (Ed served in the Korean War era) the engine room of a US Navy warship was manned with a very talented and well-trained group of sailors. These enlisted ratings assigned to the engine room, included Boilermakers (B), Water Tenders (WT), Machinist Mate (MM), Metalsmith (M), Molder (ML) and Electrician's Mate (EM). These sailors worked the ship's engine room like a ballet, maintaining power and speed for the US Navy warship.

US Navy Machinist's Mates operate, maintain, and repair (to the organizational and intermediate level) ship propulsion machinery, auxiliary equipment, and outside machinery, such as: steering engine, hoisting machinery, food preparation equipment, refrigeration and air conditioning equipment, windlasses, elevators, and laundry equipment; operate and maintain (at the organizational and intermediate level) marine boilers, pumps, forced draft blowers, and heat exchangers; perform tests, transfers, and inventory of lubricating oils, fuels, and water; maintain records and reports; and generate and stow industrial gases. This



last task, "stow industrial gases," was Ed's focus during his US Navy career as a MMG3 or Petty Officer 3rd Class.

Typical of the Americans of the Greatest Generation, (Ed's age group is also known as the Silent Generation, as they were younger than the World War II era Veterans), Ed worked hard to support his wife, Lucie, and two daughters, Helen, and Mary Ann. Ed worked for First National Supermarkets, Bond Bread, the Lawrence School Department as a custodian at the Lawler, Kane, and Hennessey Schools. He later worked for the Lawrence Parks Department, then retired from the

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HERO: PAGE 16

Banning Guns Will End the Same as Banning Drugs

Every time there is a mass shooting, Democrat politicians and leftists in the media take to the TV airwaves to exploit murder victims and push their anti-gun agenda. Take away guns and bad people won't commit crimes, goes the mantra. As if that worked out well for drugs and alcohol.

In unison, they all repeat the same scripted talking points, word for word, in an attempt to emotionally manipulate the public at a time of great grief to achieve their political ends:

"these are weapons of war"
"we need background checks"
"it's time to ban assault weapons"
"how many more children must die?"

Of course, they put forth their weapons ban solutions with no evidence that they will actually stop mass shootings. In fact, the last time scary looking guns were banned in the 90s, shooting deaths went up, not down.

Anyone who points this out, or

challenges the flaws in the gun-grabber arguments are accused of wanting more violence and then silenced on social media.

The evidence shows, however, that it's the Democrat Party "leaders" who want more violence in our country so they can increase federal control; thereby increasing their own political power.

Just look at the result of what they propose. On the one hand, they want to ban guns, as if criminals will follow the law. This means that law abiding citizens cannot defend themselves against violent criminals who have illegal guns. Their argument ends by telling you to just call the police and wait.

Yet, if the Democrats in power had their way, the police would be "defunded" and "reimagined" with no arrest powers and no guns. You see how that works? No police and no LEGAL guns. What could go wrong?

As a side note, how do you think it would work out when the government

sends white police officers into any major U.S. city, to forcibly take guns away from black people in black neighborhoods?

I think we all know what's going to happen, and that's actually the point. The gun grabbers know this, in fact, they are counting on it. Their political power grows as chaos reigns in our streets.

The fact is, not a single excuse given for banning any kind of gun in this country can stop a madman from committing violence if he is determined to do so. The scarce availability of guns will not change that.

LOTS OF AVAILABILITY IN THE 20s

In the 1920s and 30s Mafia gangsters used machine guns to kill their rivals and run illegal alcohol stores and clubs. Those were real "weapons of war."

The streets of major cities in America were filled with fully automatic weapons, not these one-bullet-per-round semi-automatic AR15's or AK47's that people are whining about today.

Yet, with all those fully automatic machine guns - real "weapons of war" - readily available and legal to the public, there were no school shootings back then. There were no mass shootings of innocent crowds of people. Think about that for a minute, and then think about it again.

Mass shootings and school shootings are a fairly recent phenomenon. Yet, according to the FBI's own statistics there are fewer guns per household today than there was thirty years ago.

We cannot let those with an anti-American agenda to emotionally manipulate the public every time children are killed, or an atrocity is committed.

We cannot let politicians in a free country disarm the public while they are also calling to defund police and allowing violent criminals free from prison. To do so would be to repeat the same historical mistakes as so many other failed nations. ♦

YE GAY O'LE VALLEY: When Does Citizenship Begin?

Dani B. Langevin
VALLEY PATRIOT COLUMNIST

Why does the unborn child need to be protected? And why, if we are working to protect them, does our government forget them once they're born? Case in point: an unborn child must be protected from murder. However, if this child is raped at 13 by a family member and it results in a pregnancy, then they are not protected. They are going to be forced to have that baby. How is this protecting our children?

At the point of which I am writing this, Roe v. Wade is still the law of the land, but its days are numbered. This is a column I wrote back in September of 2019 with some additions:

Why is it that policy makers, the majority being white, straight men, believe it is their right to tell a woman what she can and cannot do with her body? Most likely it is because the chances of them being raped are next to nothing and getting pregnant are zero. Their justification is that they are protecting the life of the unborn child. Well, it's not theirs to protect. A fetus is not a viable human, nor has it ever been so it doesn't fall under the jurisdiction of

a citizen. And if you are saying that life begins at conception then EVERY child conceived in America should be protected by the US Constitution regardless of their parents' status or where they were born. I believe any parents who conceive a child in America should sue for citizenship of their children. If you really want to protect the life of an unborn child, then protect all who begin within our borders.

What of the woman who is the victim of a rape or child who is the victim of incest (rape of a child)? Who will protect them? Oh, but they've already been born, they don't need protecting, right? Pro-lifers are so concerned about the unborn child that they forget that there are over 31 million children living in poverty (Columbia University). What are they doing to help those children? And what about school shootings? Protect the unborn child but allow them to be shot up in what is supposed to be the safest institution in America next to churches to the tune of over 300 children murdered. What are they doing about that? Not much, as most of them support the NRA.

If Roe v. Wade is reversed, crime, teen pregnancies, poverty, and high school dropouts will rise along with healthcare

issues. The majority of women who rely on Planned Parenthood are living in poverty. Take these support systems away and you'll see more children born into that very life. Mark my words, crime is going to go up in about 15-18 years along with poverty and the need for social systems to help all of those children born to unwed mothers. And then the Right will call the poor and minority groups out and say that it's their fault. They'll say they're sucking on the teats of the system when they are the ones who put them there in the first place by denying them the ability to decide their own destiny. The right will continue to blame these unwed mothers and their children for the crime, poverty and sucking of the system to stop funds from going to where they should be. They are clever but oh so transparent. I can guarantee you that those who are making the laws will make sure that their mistresses will all have access to abortions.

Roe v. Wade was passed in 1973, however, several states had legalized abortion in 1970. Fast forward 18 years, and these states saw a measurable drop in crime; some as much as 50% (Levine et al. 1996). Planned Parenthood saw

the value in giving women choices and support. It does not only provide abortions to those who are victims of poverty or violent crime, it provides STD testing and treatment, birth control, wellness exams and advocacy for reproductive rights. That's why it's called Planned Parenthood. Isn't that what everyone wants, a "planned parenthood" where every child is wanted and can be provided for? So, why destroy a system that assists with that? Do some men want a get out of rape free card? This will give them the ability to rape at will. I am in NO way saying all men rape. The majority do not, but it certainly makes it easier for those fence sitters. The fact is, they all have the ability to do it and all women are potential victims twice: by their rapist and by the law.

The reversal of this fifty-year precedent will force women and girls of all economic levels to carry a child they do not want. Let me reword that: Women and girls of certain economic levels. There are women who have the financial means to go anywhere for medical procedures and no one would be

CITIZENSHIP: PAGE 23



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KEEPING PROMISES:

By Lawrence Mayor Brian DePena



Mayor Brian A. DePeña, along with other local and state officials, attended the Class of 2022 Graduation for Lawrence High School. With a graduating class of over 704+ students, the night was attended by the great baseball star and Hall of Famer, Pedro Martínez. "It's such a great honor to see all these students making their dreams come true," said the mayor, "and of course seeing the Hall of Famer Pedro Martinez here with us is a privilege, we are all here celebrating as a family and as members of a united community, on this graduation number 171th of the Lawrence High School."

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ABOVE AND BELOW: Republican Candidate for governor Chris Doughty showed up in Lawrence last week - not to campaign - but to volunteer at TMF's family dinner for the homeless at the Buckley Garage. Doughty showed up without a camera crew and asked that people not take photos. "I'm here to help and to learn first hand what these homeless advocates do every day. I have a lot of admiration for those who help the less fortunate," he said as he was setting up tables and handing out sandwiches.



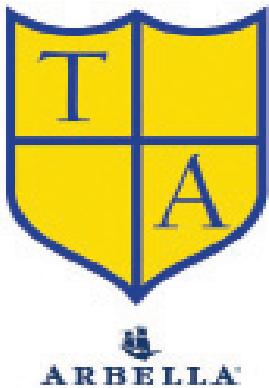
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STATE PRIMARIES WILL DECIDE SEVERAL RACES

Several races for State Representative in the Merrimack Valley will be decided in the September 6th primary as there are no Republicans running (so far) in those races.

In the newly carved Lawrence/Methuen district it will be Methuen City Councilor Jim McCarty - who has no job and lives in his mother's basement - against Lawrence City Councilor Estela Reyes - who is a homeowner, a mother, and is gainfully employed. Whoever wins this primary will be the next state rep in that new district. Another race being decided in the September 6th primary is the race between Lawrence State Rep. Marcos Devers vs. Methuen resident Francisco Paulino. Running unopposed (as of now) is former Methuen Councilor Ryan Hamilton who will replace Rep. Linda Dean Campbell.

NOT SO FAST IN THE RACE FOR STATE SENATE

In the race for Diana DiZoglio's open state senate seat, there are three Democrats running for the nomination: Lawrence City Councilor Pavel Payano, Methuen Councilor Eunice Zeigler, and Lawrence activist Doris Rodriguez. Whoever wins that primary will face Methuen Republican Kevin Freeman in the November final.

METHUEN DIGNITARIES SNUB COUNCILOR MCCARTY, ENDORSE ESTELA REYES

You would think that with a Methuen City Councilor running for state representative this year, that his colleagues on the council and other Methuen dignitaries would be lining up to support him against his opponent from Lawrence.

Yet, Methuen City Councilor Mike Simard - the most popular member of the Methuen City Council - is endorsing Lawrence City Councilor Estela Reyes. So too, is Methuen Councilor Steve Saba, former Councilor Ron Marsan, Methuen School Committee members Ryan DiZoglio and Jana Zanni Pesce, former School Committee Member Jana DiNatale, and former Methuen City Councilor Jen Kannan, just to name a few. I think it says a lot that so many movers and shakers in Methuen would rather have a Lawrence Councilor represent them in the State House than a current member of their own council. Maybe the next notebook item will explain why.

TOM DUGGAN'S NOTEBOOK

Thanks to all of the people who attended the Valley Patriot's 18th Anniversary BASH in April. We were able to donate \$740 from the event to Clear Path for Veterans New England. Pictured right, Jason Gilbert from Clear Path accepts the check saying it will go a long way towards helping to feed homeless vets.



METHUEN COUNCILORS ADMIT COUNCIL IS DYSFUNCTIONAL, INEFFECTIVE

For the last four years I have spent a lot of time trying to ring the alarm bell in Methuen about how dysfunctional, dirty, political, and ineffective the Methuen City Council has become. At first, councilors themselves would publicly attack ME (as if I'm a fellow councilor) saying that I was just picking on them. WAAH! Anyone who watches these meetings will get a full dose of what I've been saying all this time. Councilors yell over each other at meetings, attack each other's integrity, spend too much time on irrelevant issues while letting larger issues go ignored, and use the televised city council meetings to grandstand for their political supporters.

Now, years after attacking me for saying all this, councilors themselves are starting to say it - out loud at public meetings. Last month, Councilor Saba publicly said that the council is "weak and dysfunctional". Councilor DiZoglio echoed that sentiment saying that the council wastes too much time on irrelevant issues. Councilor Finocchiaro said at that same meeting that the council was "ineffective and dysfunctional" following up with a scathing rebuke of her fellow councilors whom she says follow the policies and procedures when it suits them, and ignores them when it's convenient.

So, now that councilors themselves are finally saying what I have been

saying for four years, I wonder if there's going to be an apology in the offing. I'm not holding my breath! ☺

TMF GETS TWO YEAR PERMIT

While the Eagle ~ Tribune tried to big foot us on our own story and jumped the gun last month with a front page story about TMF going back to the Buckley garage to feed the homeless on Wednesday nights in Lawrence, the fact is it was just two weeks ago when the Lawrence City Council voted 8-1 to give these homeless advocates a home on Common Street to feed the homeless for the next two years. I find it interesting how they conveniently left out of their story some pertinent information, such as who spearheaded the change and who was involved. Shoddy reporting as usual from the Trib, but we are happy to report that TMF now has a 2-year permit to service the homeless Wednesday nights on Common Street.

CANDIDATE FINANCES

The following is a list of local candidates for state representative and state senate, and how much money they have raised, spent, and how much they have on hand as of May 31st.

Jim McCarty
Candidate for State Rep (Methuen and Lawrence)
Receipts year to date: \$15,533.81
Expenses YTD: \$9,434.71
Cash on Hand: \$26,789.66

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Estela Reyes
Candidate for State Rep (Methuen and Lawrence)
Receipts year to date: \$9,700
Expenses YTD: \$3,009.57
Cash on Hand: \$6,869.36

Doris Rodriguez
Candidate For State Senate
Receipts YTD: \$1,765.00
Expenses YTD: \$1,732.91
Cash on Hand: -\$95.91

Pavel Payano
Candidate for State Senate
Receipts YTD: \$34,468.06
Expenses YTD: \$13,649.61
Cash on Hand: \$38,776.06

Eunice Zeigler
Candidate for State Senate
Receipts YTD: \$32,693.54
Expenses YTD: \$21,562.00
Cash on Hand \$0

Marcos Devers
Candidate for State Rep. (Lawrence and Methuen)
Receipts YTD: \$22,430
Expenses YTD: \$7,401.41
Cash on Hand: \$16,162.95

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Francisco Paulino
Candidate for State Rep.
(Lawrence and Methuen)
Receipts YTD: \$41,639.45
Expenses YTD: \$20,484.65
Cash on Hand: \$26,601.37

Barry Finegold – State Senator
Receipts YTD: \$165,969.10
Expenses YTD: \$165,905.48
Cash on Hand: \$459,129.83

Sal DeFranco
Candidate State Senate
Receipts YTD: \$22,041.36
Expenses YTD: \$4,102.46
Cash on Hand: \$17,938.90

Joe Finn – Candidate for State Rep.
(North Andover, Boxford)
Receipts YTD: \$3,525.67
Expenses YTD: \$1,678.70
Cash on Hand: \$1,846.97

Adrienne Ramos
Candidate for State Rep.
(North Andover, Boxford)
Receipts YTD: \$0
Expenses YTD: \$0
Cash on Hand: \$0

Tram Nguyen – State Rep.
(Andover)
Receipts YTD: \$28,215.30
Expenses YTD: \$6,437.57
Cash on Hand: \$207,999.78

Ryan Hamilton
Candidate for State Rep.
(Methuen – Haverhill)
Expenses YTD: \$20,360.04
Receipts YTD: \$7,525.55
Cash on Hand: \$12,834.49

HAVERHILL FARMER'S MARKET STARTS JUNE 25th

The Haverhill Farmers Market returns for its 44th season, beginning June 25th and running until October 29th at 51 Merrimack Street, in front of the Goecke parking deck. The market operates from 9AM to 1PM, selling a wide variety of local products, including farm-fresh fruits, herbs, eggs, vegetables, delicious baked goods, hummus, local wines, meads, honey, fresh breads, handmade soaps, doggie treats, and much more. In addition,

shoppers can get knives and tools sharpened at On Edge Sharpening while browsing at the market.

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Thank you for supporting the Haverhill Farmers Market for 44 years!

For more information please visit: www.teamhaverhill.org/projects/community/haverhillfarmers-market, find us on Facebook/haverhillfarmersmarket, or email market manager Jeff Grassie at jeffgrassie1966@gmail.com.

ELITE BOCCE PLAYERS TO SHINE AT 2022 NATIONAL TOURNAMENT

Monday, June 20, 2022 - Sunday June 26th at the Methuen Sons of Italy: 459 Merrimack St. Methuen, MA 01844. Media parking available on application.

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Fri 6/24 – Sun 6/26 Methuen Money Tournaments
Sun 6/26 Open Tournament B - Medal (4/team)

*Please register early.



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EYE ON DRACUT

It's Not Charlie Baker's GOP Anymore, Thankfully

By Brian Genest

VALLEY PATRIOT DRACUT COLUMNIST

What do Massachusetts Gov. Charlie Baker and his would-be establishment replacement Chris Doughty have in common? Neither alleged Republican voted for Donald Trump in the 2016 Presidential Election. Unlike Baker, who claims he blanked the race, Doughty admits he voted for Crooked Hillary Clinton.

You can see why Doughty, like Baker, fails to excite the GOP's conservative base. That lack of excitement was on full display at the Republican State Convention. The race's frontrunner, Geoff Diehl, a proven commodity with Republican activists and voters, wallop newb Doughty badly, winning more than 70% of the votes from convention delegates and easily becoming the party's endorsed candidate for governor.

Wonder which Republican delegates voted for the guy who voted for Hillary? Wonder no more. Thanks to MassGOP Chairman Jim Lyons and his commitment to full transparency, you can see how each delegate voted for yourself. Lyons published the voting records, and it makes for some interesting reading.

Spoiler alert: Try not to let this list destroy your faith in the squishy Republican establishment. And make no mistake about it: Baker's middle-of-the-road supporters, those who scream for big-tent unity, are the biggest dissenters of all in the party right now. At the top of the list are some members of the state committee, state representatives, and other elected officials.

But don't take my word for it. After all, the numbers don't lie. And the names of the mediocre are now etched in history.

For example, down in the Plymouth and Barnstable districts, Diehl won 27 to 3. Among the three for Doughty was Jennifer Cunningham of Plymouth, the state committeewoman. Meanwhile, she's surrounded by a sea of Diehl supporters – including all 16 delegates from Bourne (including her counterpart, State Committeeman Jay McMahon), both delegates from Kingston, all five delegates from Pembroke, three of the four delegates from Sandwich and a

fellow delegate from her hometown. Of course, unlike her fellow delegates, Cunningham works for Baker.

Over in the Worcester and Middlesex Districts, Diehl won 40-5. Among the handful for Doughty was State Committeewoman Susan Smiley of Lancaster. In her district, Diehl won the support of all seven delegates from Fitchburg, both delegates from Gardner, eight of nine delegates from Leominster, all six delegates from Lunenburg, all four delegates from Sterling, seven of 10 delegates from Townsend, all five delegates from Westminster and a fellow delegate from her hometown. Stop me when this sounds familiar.

Then there's the Hampshire, Franklin, and Worcester districts, which supported Diehl 11-2. All the delegates from Amherst, Deerfield, Greenfield, North Hampton and Royalston voted for Diehl, except two—State Committeewoman Mary Lou Stuart and her HUSBAND State Committeeman Jay Fleitman, the MassGOP vice chairman.

Other members of the State Committee casting ballots for Doughty in their districts include Jaclyn Corriveau of Peabody, Sid Starks of East Longmeadow, Mike Case of Washington, Amy Carnevale of Marblehead, Laurie Myers of Chelmsford, Robert Aufiero of Melrose, Caroline Colarusso of Stoneham, Mindy McKenzie of Shrewsbury, Ryan Chamberland of Blackstone, William and Judith Crocker of Centerville, and Janet Fogarty and Ron Kaufman of Weymouth, who both also serve on the Republican National Committee.

In the First Essex & Middlesex districts, the 36-9 vote for Diehl was telling. Very telling.

Diehl won the only delegate in Essex, all three delegates in Ipswich, six of the nine delegates in Middleton, five of the six delegates in Rockport, the only delegate in West Newbury and all four delegates in Wilmington. In Georgetown, Diehl won three of the four delegates; only state Rep. Lenny Mirra voted for Doughty. In Gloucester, Diehl won four of the five delegates; only state Sen. Bruce Tarr voted for Doughty. In North Reading, Diehl won nine of 12 delegates. Among

GOP: PAGE 14



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Months After Endorsing Lawrence Mayor, Firefighters Call Him “Political” & “Unethical” - Mayor Touts “Diversity”

Lawrence Mayor Brian DePena may be facing his very first controversy since taking office last November.

Members of the Lawrence Firefighter's Union have sent a letter to the city council opposing his request to create a new position in the fire department: "Assistant Fire Chief".

The Lawrence Firefighter's Union endorsed the mayor last year and campaigned for him against acting-mayor Kendrys Vasquez. At the time, Mayor DePena said that he supported the Lawrence firefighters, and particularly the union "100%".

Now the very same union is publicly opposing DePena's first major move in their department.

Union President Eric Zahn told the city council in a harshly worded letter that there is no need for the new position, calling it "unethical" and a "political favor" even threatening to take a vote of "no confidence" in the mayor.

"Recently the Current Administration along with Chief Moriarty is trying to create an Assistant Fire Chief Position in the Lawrence Fire Dept."

"Union Local 146, Lawrence Firefighters, has voted UNANIMOUSLY to oppose this position the way it is being brought forward."

The union president then listed six reasons they so strongly opposed the new position, including no need for the job, no listed qualifications for job applicants, and the measure "violates the union rules for promotions."

The letter continues;

"This is simply put a POLITICAL FAVOR! The Mayor has indicated that this position is being catered for one of our members (one mind you that recently resigned from this Union). This is not the way we do business, nor should it be the way the City should do business. As a City Councilor you have a responsibility to vote for positions that hire the MOST QUALIFIED individuals as Department Heads. This is not the case here."

"This borders on UNETHICAL



The Lawrence Firefighters Union and Lawrence Mayor Brian DePena during their endorsement last November. They may now be calling for a vote of "no confidence" in the mayor for wanting to create a new position outside the chain of command and without proper credentials.

BEHAVIOR! It has been said that the administration wants to give this member the position to "bump up his retirement". This alone should give you a moment of pause to understand exactly what you are voting for! The Union is researching the legal ramifications of such an offer of employment. You as a Councilor should as well. You will have to be the ones to explain to your voters why you would support a position that the professional members of our Local completely oppose."

Zahn said that the union is willing to work with the city for a "better outcome" but that negotiations have "stalled" after he was told that "this is going to happen no matter what you guys do!"

He did not specify who told him that.

MAYOR DEPENA SAYS

"DIVERSITY" IS NEEDED

"Lawrence cannot afford to walk away from being a leader in Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion," Mayor DePena said, "even if this means breaking the out-of-date hiring traditions that this community and other communities in the Commonwealth have used."

In a press release, DePena explained

"This is simply put a POLITICAL FAVOR! The Mayor has indicated that this position is being catered for one of our members (one mind you that recently resigned from this Union). This is not the way we do business, nor should it be the way the City should do business.... This borders on UNETHICAL BEHAVIOR!"

*~ERIC ZAHN PRESIDENT
LAWRENCE FIREFIGHTERS UNION*



that the fire department needs more "Latinos" among the ranks of officials.

"Based on our observations, our Lawrence Fire Department is falling far short of meeting appropriate levels of diversity among its leaders. The Lawrence Fire Department is currently staffed with thirty-eight (38) fire officers appointed through the Civil Service system. Specifically, there are 23 Lieutenants, 11 Captains, and 4 Deputy Chiefs. Only one (1) of the thirty-eight

(38) leadership positions, a lieutenant, is held by a Latino."

ATTACKING CIVIL SERVICE

Mayor DePena said that the state's Civil Service Commission - set up to prevent nepotism and political favors in municipal hiring - disproportionately effects "minority-majority communities" in a negative way.

"A growing number of cities in

FIREFIGHTERS: PAGE 14

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Trinitarios Gang Member Arismendy Gil-Padilla of Methuen Sentenced to 11 Years for Trafficking Guns, Ammunition, Cocaine, Fentanyl

Convicted felon sold at least 16 guns, ammunition, a laser sight, drugs to cooperating witness

BOSTON – A member of the Trinitarios street gang was sentenced today in federal court in Boston in connection with trafficking firearms, ammunition, cocaine and fentanyl in the Greater Lawrence area.

Arismendy Gil-Padilla, a/k/a “Flow”, 32, of Methuen, was sentenced by U.S. District Court Judge Denise J. Casper to 11 years in prison and six years of supervised release. On Feb. 2, 2022, Gil-Padilla pleaded guilty to two counts of being a felon in possession of a firearm, two counts of possession with intent to distribute and distribution of cocaine and one count of possession with intent to distribute and distribution of 40 grams or more of fentanyl and cocaine.

Gil-Padilla was indicted in November 2019 as part of a federal sweep targeting federal and state offenders, including members and associates of the Trinitarios street gang in the Greater Lawrence area.

The Trinitarios is a street gang

originating in the New York area with increased presence in Lawrence and the surrounding communities. According to court documents, many Trinitarios members are involved in a broad range of illegal activities including, but not limited to, firearms and drug trafficking as well as violent crimes undertaken to protect the interests of the gang and its members.

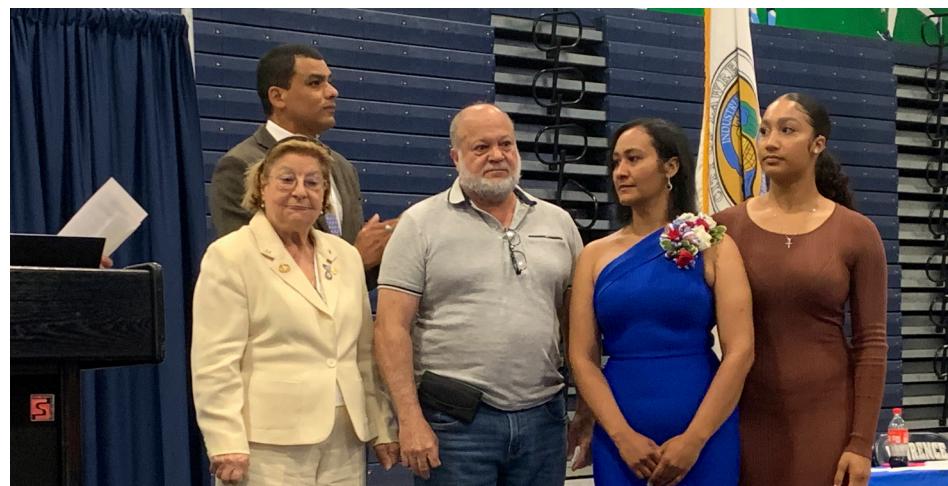
During the investigation, Gil-Padilla was identified as a member of the Trinitarios. On eight separate occasions between April and August 2018, Gil-Padilla sold 16 guns (four of which were reported stolen), ammunition, cocaine and fentanyl to a cooperating witness. Specifically, Gil-Padilla sold a cooperating witness two handguns and ammunition for \$1,800 and approximately 55.7 grams of cocaine hydrochloride for another \$1,800; 28.1 grams of cocaine hydrochloride for \$900 and seven guns, including one that was

stolen and one with a large capacity magazine, for \$5,340; and 48.7 grams of fentanyl for \$1,100 and 55.9 grams of cocaine hydrochloride for \$1,800. Gil-Padilla sold a cooperating witness seven additional firearms (three of which were stolen) and ammunition, a laser sight and 97.8 grams of fentanyl and 28 grams of cocaine over five separate occasions between April and May 2018. Gil-Padilla is prohibited from possessing firearms and ammunition due to a 2014 conviction for distributing controlled substances that was punishable by more than one year in prison.

United States Attorney Rachael S. Rollins; Joseph R. Bonavolonta, Special Agent in Charge of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, Boston Division; James Ferguson, Special Agent in Charge of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives, Boston Field Division; Matthew B. Millhollin, Special Agent in Charge of Homeland



Security Investigations in Boston; Essex County District Attorney Jonathan W. Blodgett; Colonel Christopher Mason, Superintendent of the Massachusetts State Police; Commissioner Carol Mici of the Massachusetts Department of Corrections; and Lawrence Police Chief Roy P. Vasque made the announcement. Assistant U.S. Attorney Carol Head, Chief of Rollins’ Asset Recovery Unit, prosecuted the case.



Three Gold Star families were honored at the Lawrence High School Alumni Scholarship dinner last month. Pictured above are the Raymond, Jiminez, and Pichardo families who lost a loved one in the Middle East. Pictured in back is Purple Heart recipient, Marine Hero Francisco Urena.



The three winners of the Newburyport Lions Club scholarships from Newburyport High School are with Lion Bob LaFrance. Of the three scholarships, two are in remembrance of Lion Paul Kolman and Lion Dave Sheppard.

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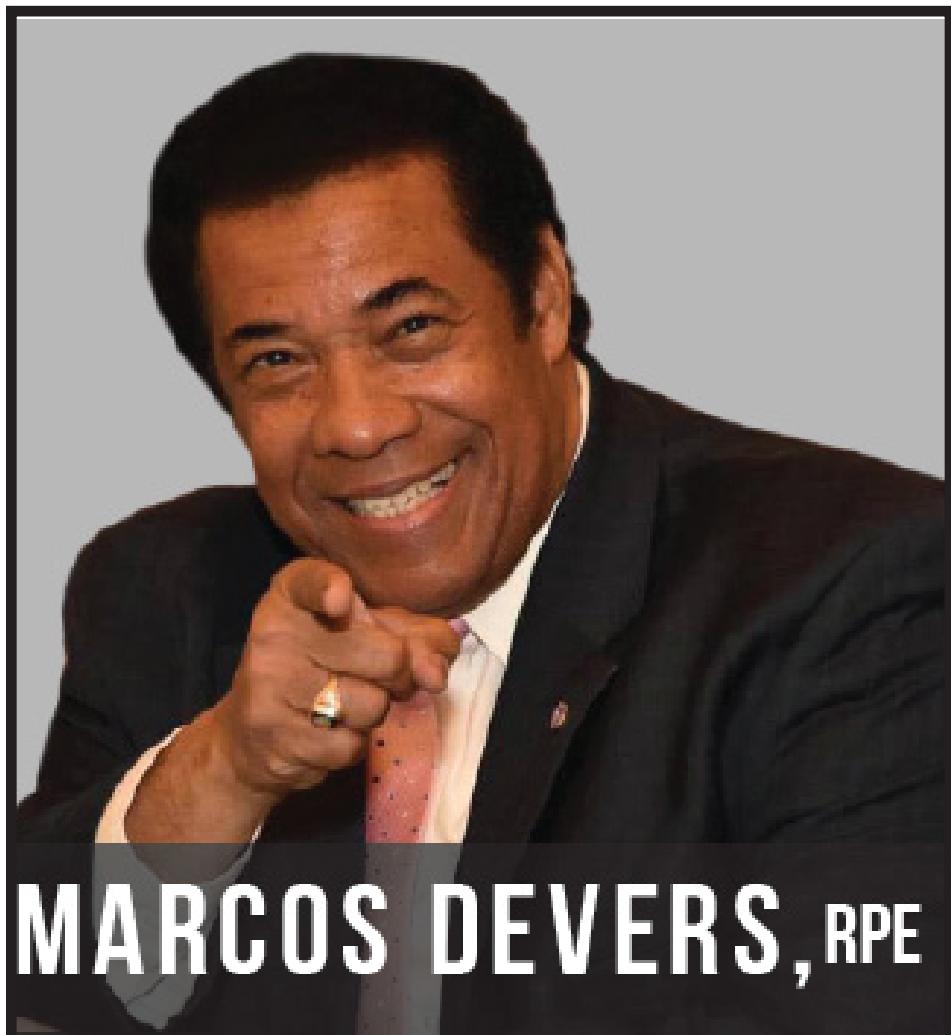
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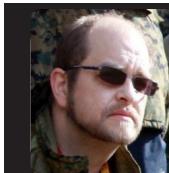


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PAYING ATTENTION!

with Tom Duggan

MA Dems Betray Minorities, Women at State Convention

While the Massachusetts Democratic Party continues to push racial animosity, obsess on “white supremacy” and push for race and gender policies within their platform, their racist rhetoric against “white privilege” seemed to take a back seat during their state party’s convention last month.

The Massachusetts Democratic Party Convention is a coronation of preferred candidates that political insiders support in each primary race. (The Republican convention works much the same).

What made this year’s convention so interesting is that it didn’t seem like the party bosses checked all of the racial and gender “identity” boxes that they demand the rest of us adhere to.

In the race for governor, current Attorney General Maura Healey came in first place over Sonia Chang Diaz on the first ballot. This, despite the fact that Healey says she supports affirmative action, racial set asides for “minorities” and championing the elevation of “non-white” candidates into positions of power. You would think if she really believed that, that she would just step aside for Chang-Diaz.

But you’d be wrong about that.

And, since Healey is White and Chang-Diaz is considered “non-white” you might assume that the high-level donors and decision makers in the Democrat Party would be supporting the “person of color” over the white person of “privilege.” But you’d be wrong about that too.

Convention attendees chose the white candidate, Maura Healey with 2,858 votes, (71.2%) to Sonia Chang-Diaz’s 1,155 votes, (28.8%).

So much for Democrats being the party of “inclusion” and “equity” and “minority representation.”

On September 6th, Massachusetts voters will choose who wins this race, and it will be interesting to see if they are just as hypocritical as their party leaders. My prediction is that they are. After all, the party that routinely attacks white people in power as “racist” and the result of “systemic white supremacy,” is the same party that chose a white man to be their party nominee for president. You know that rich, old, white guy - Joe Biden.

In the State Auditor’s race, “progressive” party insiders violated yet another commandment in the identity wars: “stand with all women.”

In this race the party bigwigs had a choice between a woman (Diana DiZoglio) and a “white man” (Chris Dempsey). Again, you would think that DiZoglio would be the clear winner at the convention. That is, if the Democrats in Massachusetts actually believed their own rhetoric and followed the same rules that they set up for the rest of us.

But you would be wrong about that too. The hypocrites in the state Democrat Party committed the sexist act of elevating a “white man of privilege” instead of “standing with all women.”

Convention attendees voted:

Chris Dempsey: 2148 votes, 52.6%

Diana DiZoglio: 1931 votes, 47.3%

If this is what Democrats mean when they say we must “empower all women” they sure have a funny view of “empowerment” or, maybe they just have a different definition of “women.”

But that’s another column entirely. ♦

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Soldiers' Home Reform Remains a Top Priority

Linda Dean Campbell
STATE REPRESENTATIVE

In the Massachusetts Legislature, we are continuing to work diligently to bring accountability and reform to our Soldiers' Homes. Comprehensive reform legislation I filed with Senator Mike Rush (a fellow Veteran) is currently in the final leg of the process.

When a very different bill came before the House, it was well publicized that I voted against the version brought forth by House leadership. My reason for doing so was that the House bill was fundamentally different than the original bill Senator Rush and I filed, in ways that could exacerbate governance issues at the Soldiers' Homes. Our original bill addressed all recommendations resulting from the months-long legislative investigation Senator Rush and I co-chaired – but the House bill departed from these recommendations on many fronts. The House bill would have created a muddled chain of command with overlapping local and statewide entities and no clear oversight authority for the Secretary of Veterans' Services. Further, it would not have required full representation of the Veteran community on the statewide Veterans' Homes Council.

Fortunately, the bill that passed the Senate aligns much more closely with our original legislation and the results of our legislative investigation. I am optimistic that the final negotiated bill will lead to



effective governance and oversight of our Soldiers' Homes to prevent a future tragedy like the one we witnessed in the spring of 2020. The goal is to finalize this legislation by mid-summer – we must get this right for our Veterans.

Recently, the state's Inspector General Glenn Cunha released his report and recommendations regarding the tragedy at the Holyoke Soldiers' Home and its causes. His report reinforces the results of our legislative investigation – that leadership failures on many fronts contributed to the tragedy and that a clear chain of command and streamlined oversight mechanisms are necessary to reform the Homes. I am grateful for the

Inspector General's support and expertise on this critical matter.

The Legislature has also authorized \$400 million in state bond funding to reconstruct the Holyoke Soldiers' Home. This funding will allow us to access 65% reimbursement from the federal government and will result in a modern, state-of-the-art facility that is equipped to provide our Veterans with the highest quality of care.

Additionally, the Baker administration has agreed to a \$56 million settlement to compensate families of Veterans at the Home who passed away from COVID-19. Families will each be compensated \$400,000, and Veterans at the Home

who contracted the virus and recovered will each be compensated \$10,000. No sum can undo the preventable tragedy in Holyoke and the heartbreak experienced by so many – but for many families, this settlement provides a much-needed acknowledgement of the suffering they have endured.

State Representative Linda Dean Campbell represents the cities of Methuen and Haverhill in the State Legislature. She serves as House Chair of the Joint Committee on Advanced IT, the Internet and Cybersecurity. She can be reached at Linda.Campbell@mahouse.gov or (617) 722-2676. ♦

MA Loses Millions on Sports Betting in Massachusetts

IN YOUR CORNER with SENATOR DIZOGLIO

with Massachusetts reaping none of the benefits in sorely needed revenue.

That is why the Massachusetts Senate recently passed legislation to legalize commercial sports betting in the Commonwealth. This bill would allow for in-person and online sports betting in Massachusetts, estimated to bring in \$35 million in tax revenue annually, while also including several consumer safeguards to address gaming addiction and recovery.

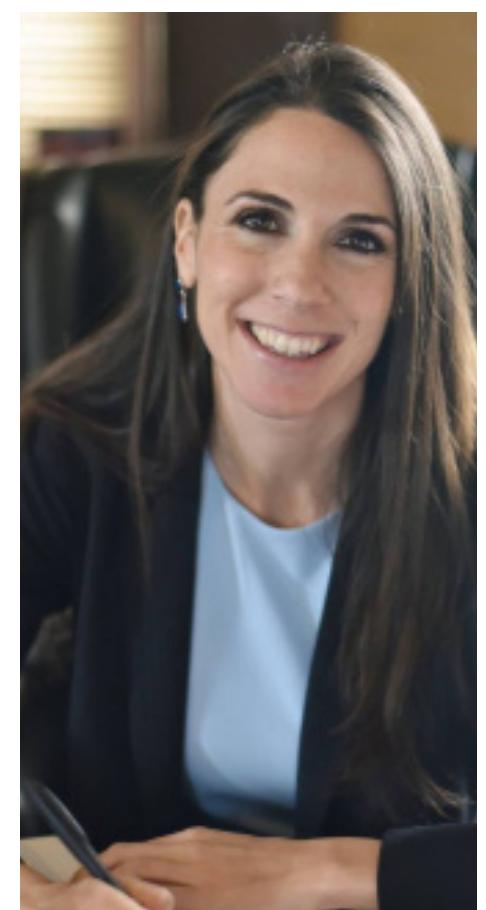
Specifically, the legislation would allow for bets to be placed on a professional sport or athletic event. In addition to sports betting being offered at existing casinos, the bill includes six licenses to be awarded through a competitive process to companies which promote job growth, responsible gambling, diversity, equity, and inclusion, and which have community

support.

With concerns around compulsive gambling in mind, the bill also aims to promote responsible gambling and takes steps to protect consumers, including prohibiting the use of credit cards to place sports bets. The bill would ensure that consumers could cash out and permanently close accounts for any reason or create self-imposed limits on wagers. This bill is designed to promote economic development through maximizing revenue while also establishing some of the strongest consumer protection measures in the country.

If you have any questions on this or any other issue, please feel free to contact me anytime via email at Diana.Dizoglio@masenate.gov or phone at 978-984-7747.

Yours in service,
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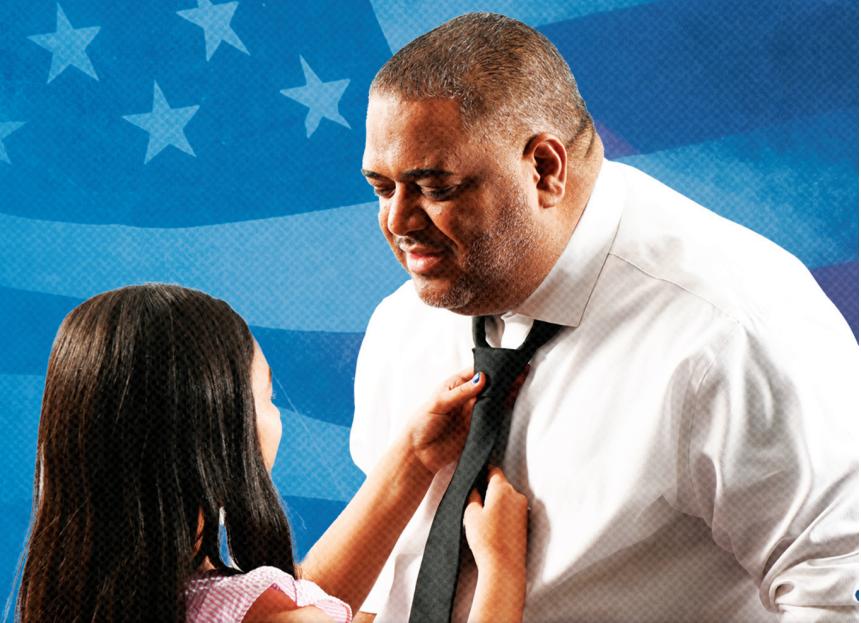
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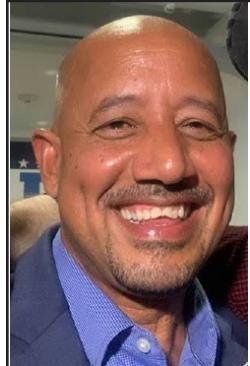
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"Lawrence cannot afford to walk away from being a leader in Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion," Mayor DePena said, "even if this means breaking the out-of-date hiring traditions that this community and other communities in the Commonwealth have used."

~ Lawrence Mayor Brian DePena

FIREFIGHTERS: FROM 8

Massachusetts have abandoned civil service because it restricts the pool of candidates, leading to a lack of diversity. Framingham, Marlborough, Grafton, and Webster have all left the system. In addition, according to a recent article in Fire Engineering, in the City of Worcester, a diversity committee recommended leaving the system. One study by Boston College law professor Mark Brodin found that civil service exams hurt the hiring and advancement of qualified minority candidates and that civil service exam results could not predict success in public safety positions, particularly for supervisors."

"Led by the Fire Chief, the Lawrence Fire Department has a talented team, including Deputies that are focused on fire suppression and emergency responses. This team is arguably more experienced with these tasks than any other fire official across the nation. Although no system is flawless, the

four-deputy rotation has proven a robust emergency response system."

"Notwithstanding the same, the fire department administration system is broken without additional support. Deputies do not have time to do the work of an Administrative Chief. It would be impossible for Deputies to stay up to date with building projects, changes to the code, plan reviews, community risk reduction projects, and educational programs while working in Fire Suppression.

There is no dedicated individual to organize specialty training for inspectors, collaborate with business owners and developers, participate in grant writing, maintain community partnerships, conduct capacity assessments to ensure timely responses to the community needs, collect inspection data, and analyze performance measures, improve outcomes, and reduce disparities." ♦

GOP: FROM PAGE 7

the three for Doughty was state Rep. Brad Jones, the party's minority leader who's kept the party in the minority since taking over that post in 2003.

In the Second Hampden and Hampshire districts, Diehl won by 41 -7. Twenty-two of those delegates came from Westfield. Only two delegates from that town voted for Doughty. One of them was state Rep. Kelly Pease.

Other State Representatives who cast ballots for Doughty include Jay Barrows of Mansfield, Paul Frost of Auburn, and Shawn Dooley of Norfolk, who lost his bid for party chairman last year.

As you can see, Baker's establishment wing of the party is small but widespread—and clinging to the past. These are some of the same people who have stood by while Maura Healey, the Democrat-dominated legislature and special interest groups have ushered in a progressive leftist agenda. Taxes and

spending continue to skyrocket. They want to defund our police. Now, illegal aliens will be getting state driver's licenses! And what have Republicans in charge like Baker, Jones, Tarr and others done to stop it? Nothing.

On the other hand, there's Lyons, Diehl and the party majority from all over the state. Those who voted for President Trump and aren't ashamed of it. Those unafraid to fight for what we believe in – life, liberty and freedom. Those who see that having a moderate governor for seven years has gotten us nowhere as a party or a commonwealth. This time, we're supporting a conservative, not a push-over.

—Brian Genest is a member of the Massachusetts Republican State Committee representing the Second Essex & Middlesex District of Andover, Dracut, Lawrence, and Tewksbury. ♦

Demonize, Never Compromise The Marching Orders of a Democratic Swamp

By Ken Willette,
Valley Patriot Columnist

There is a boiling dissatisfaction over government incompetence at all levels. Given the colossal failures of lockdowns, mandates and stimulus packages, there is an undeniable belief that leaders in Washington can't personally understand or even solve their long-term struggles. When I witness the Leftist Swamp swallowing up the possibility of reasonable and modest corrective laws, I know the actions of the Left are intentional and rotten to the very core. Their strategy is so elementary and blatant to confront, if not for the unfair advantage of most national media giving them lead story headlines--- without any accountability or verification.

The Leftists immediately blow up any semblance of historical insight by calling Republicans 'Nazis, Fascists, Deplorables, and Racists.' They love to demonize in the absence of a winning argument, as if fireworks, riots, screams, mobs, and thugs in masks can serve as models of good governance. Learn about the French Revolution to find out how that worked out.

Anyone with even a basic understanding of history will realize that the Democratic Party served as the party of subjugation and oppression. They routinely destroyed the civil liberties of millions of slaves. There is no dispute that Southern Democrats directly engaged in outright insurrection that cost the lives of 600,000 Americans.

Even after military defeat in 1865, Southern Democrats passed Jim Crow laws, trumped up false charges to create a profitable prison labor force and promoted white supremacy for more than 100 years. In fact, there should be a special wing of the DNC dedicated to millions of aggrieved souls impacted by Democratic policies—both North and South-- during those dark times. Don't forget that Democrats created internment camps for thousands of innocent Japanese Americans during World War II.

Besides the historical falsehoods, there is a clear language of attack used by the Left and their media hounds to control the national narrative. Biden is looking for 'sane' Republicans to

pass gun control, as if there are padded walls and lunatics roaming the halls of Congress. Senator Markey claims that certain Supreme Court justices are 'illegitimate'. That the GOP has a 'white supremacy problem' after the Buffalo shooting, as if record numbers of African Americans and Latinos running for office in the GOP are just pawns in an apartheid party!

But has anyone questioned Markey as to how Supreme Court justices who received Senate confirmation are now illegitimate? Or was Biden asserting that most GOP are insane on the issue of guns? Or how the great replacement theory, which was conceived by a Southern racist Democratic Senator 70 years ago, could have become the philosophy of modern-day Republican leadership? And what exactly is the link between an evil mass shooter and GOP policy again, when the GOP's agenda is pro criminal justice?

News Flash: -- The Radical Left is not interested in reasonable gun control legislation—only the attacks to raise campaign money or gain points in a campaign. Can Beto O'Rourke honestly claim that he could have prevented a mass shooting or any future mass shooting? Regardless of his sincerity or honesty—which I question given his disgusting efforts to interrupt a press conference-- Beto will sadly ride the wave of fear being generated by the mass shootings.

If they can gain political ground in a tough election year, raise money, and denigrate the GOP, that is victory enough for them. A limited package of red flag laws could be passed in a day. But Leftists want outright gun bans. Really? Why wasn't the Buffalo shooter arrested if he made prior threats? How about the warning signs and red flags associated with the Parkland shooter, which resulted in no arrests?

There is an old yet wise saying that has tangible meaning today. It reads: "Politics is the Art of the Possible." You work to get to a package that is acceptable to both sides, nothing beyond it. Democrats, because they are in constant protest or attack dog mode, have lost that artform. Until they are willing to engage in limited, achievable, and effective law-making, Leftists will continue to do this nation a great disservice. ♦

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KANE'S CORNER ~ Tom Mattox Hypno Comedy

The Many Faces of Hypnotism - From Cracking You Up to Fixing You Up

Kane met with Tom Mattox, Hypno Comedian, to learn the many ways hypnotism is used including sales, behavior change, and comedy. Tom, a Navy Veteran, first became interested in the hypnosis field during the 2016 Presidential Election. Tom was intrigued with the use of word association in political campaigns and how it is widely used to persuade listeners. Kane asked if the candidates hypnotized their audiences. Tom explained that potential voters were not directly hypnotized by candidates, but techniques such as using metaphors and repeating words several times creates a persuasive association with a politicians' campaign. Tom explained these techniques and slogans are also used in the advertising field. The hypnotic nature of associating words with a person or product strengthened the message.

Next Tom embarked on a journey and training on clinical hypnosis. Examples of training topics include stress relief, phobias, weight loss, anxiety and, of course, smoking. Kane asked how hypnosis worked. Tom explained that the process guides your subconscious. It presents like a suggestion. Instead of doing this (smoking), you may enjoy doing this. What else would relax you besides smoking, what else could you do with your hands. Tom explained that it is helpful to figure out why you engage in the undesirable behavior and

find a solution to the challenge.

Kane asked Tom if everyone could be hypnotized. Tom explained that we hypnotize ourselves every day. An example of hypnosis is getting into the zone when you are driving. You are doing something, but your brain may be having other thoughts at the same time. The moment may be relaxing, and you find yourself in a familiar place and at ease. Secretly Kane thought hypnosis was scary, but now he realized hypnosis includes the everyday skills of mindfulness. Skills such as relaxing the muscles and counting is familiar. Kane does progressive relaxation before bed and disrupts a yoga class at least two times a week by stepping on people and pulling their socks off. Kane asked Tom if people can get stuck in hypnosis. Tom explained that this was a common concern, the answer is you cannot get stuck in hypnosis. At the most you may get sleepy.

Most recently, Tom has launched his business, Mattox Hypno Comedy, which he enjoys since the performers are recruited directly from the audience. Tom explained to Kane that he doesn't worry about whether the show will be entertaining since Hypno comedy consistently is, but whether enough people will volunteer. People sometimes fear being out of character. Tom has been taking the show to schools for student graduations as well as private



parties and fundraisers. The participants go along with "the imagination game" such as dancing, driving a car, and making faces at a teacher. If you would like to learn more about Mattox Hypno Comedy or are looking for clinical hypnosis, please feel free to reach out to Tom at 978-758-4575 or check out his website: <https://mattoxhypnosis.com/> As

for Kane, he was thinking that maybe Tom could help him not eat things that he shouldn't.

Well really, he just pretends he is chewing things to get his humans attention.

Kane is a work in process.
Kane Peaslee - Woof ♦

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THE DOCTOR IS IN!

Wellness 101

Dr. Pierre Ghassibi

VALLEY PATRIOT MEDICAL COLUMNIST

Greetings all. Let me repeat here a theme that I covered before but maybe in different words. The treatment of very many conditions and diseases is like crutches for a broken leg. These are advices that help prevent our body from breaking:

* Our muscles hold our structure. We have to keep them in shape. But good muscles bring also less cancer, less diabetes, less dementia, less depression, less arthritis, less heart attacks, less strokes.

* A plant-based diet does the same. If we cannot turn vegan, at least we can cut out meat, chicken, pork, etc. and eat fish less than once a week. Omega three is not what it is claimed to be. A plant-based diet also fights climate change.

* It is rare for back surgery to markedly eliminate pain. Heat, ice, massage, and pills, only hide the problem. The back mostly heals itself if we take care of it. The way to take care of our spine, in addition to staying fit, is to never bend over and never use the arms to lift. We have to lift with the pelvis. The arms only keep the object glued to our center. The effort should come from the pelvis and from the knees. People with weak knees should not lift more than a few pounds.

* Our children: My patients often thought that I wanted to starve their

children. We want our kids to eat "well" because we love them. But "well" does not mean a lot. We are seeing teenagers with hip and knee disease from morbid obesity and lack of muscles, we are seeing diabetes, even heart failure at a young age from obesity. Add to this poor self-esteem, migraine, reproductive issues, poor sleep and a number of skin conditions due to obesity.

* We should realize that we cannot impose our opinion on our children, friends, colleagues, and spouses. Every tiny family hostility pulls us a bit apart, but with time, the distance gets appreciable. This is very hard to practice because imposing our opinion and style on others is built in our DNA. This is the main Tower of Babel in society. If we are sure that our opinion is the right one, we should try to gently convince others and not impose our way. Imposing poisons the atmosphere and it does not last.

* Avoid accidents by protecting the eyes, wearing helmets, seat belts where necessary, avoiding accidents and falls by being careful. I often advise against multitasking and being in a hurry, major causes of accidents.

* Add to the above following the doctor's recommendations for checkups, vaccines, mammograms, colonoscopies, blood work as required.

P. Ghassibi, md
ghassibi@hotmail.com ◊

HERO: FROM PAGE 1

Lawrence Water Department.

Very fit his entire life, from swimming regularly at the Plains Community Center, Ed was also very engaged in his church and community. Many at St Patrick's Parish tell a story once of Ed swimming the length of a New Hampshire Lake during a St. Patrick's Parish cookout. He has served as both a Sexton and Eucharistic Minister at St Patrick's in Lawrence, Massachusetts. Ed is always ready to help, volunteering with the Holy Name Society, the Men of St Patrick, especially at parish cookouts, and serving his fellow Lawrence citizens at Cor Unum. Ed is a member of the Disabled American Veterans.

Lawrence in the 1950's, to 1980's was populated with thousands of these hardworking, church going, husbands and fathers, most Veterans of World War II and Korea. What set Ed and his brother Veterans of World War II and the Korean War era apart from our Veterans today is their high level of engagement in their community.

These men, who spent their youth defending our nation, joined civic groups and especially Veterans organizations, in large numbers, coached youth sports, raised their families, and built great, safe, vibrant communities. As a representative of the Silent Generation, holding true to the American values of the Greatest Generation, Lawrence's Ed Nasser is

truly a hero in our midst!

The Dracut American Legion invites all Valley Patriot readers and their families to our Flag Retirement Ceremony on Flag Day, Tuesday, June 14th at 6:30pm at the Dracut American Legion on 574 Broadway in Dracut. This is a free family event. We also ask all World War II, Korean War, and Vietnam War Veterans, to call (603) 518-5368 and sign up for an Honor Flight to the Memorials in Washington, D.C.! Veterans of all eras are asked to go the American Legion's Web site www.legion.org, and join the American Legion; our mission is working with Congress, preserving our Veteran's Benefits for future generations.

John Cuddy served in the US Navy's Construction Battalions (also known as the Seabees) after retiring from the US Navy; he earned a bachelor's in history and a master's in economics from the University of Massachusetts on the Lowell Campus. He has been employed in Logistics at FedEx for the last 25 years. If you know a World War II, Korean War, or Vietnam War, Veteran who would like their story told, please email him at John.Cuddy@yahoo.com ◊



Home Health VNA Awards Scholarship to GLTS Graduating Senior Yeneli Tejada-Cruz

Home Health VNA has awarded a scholarship presented annually in memory of a former employee to Yeneli Tejada-Cruz, a Lawrence resident and graduating senior of the Health and Medical Assisting program at Greater Lawrence Technical School in Andover. Tejada-Cruz plans to study nursing at Merrimack College in North Andover this fall.

The \$500 scholarship was established in 1995 as a tribute to Lisa Santiago Ventura, who sustained fatal injuries after being struck during a high-speed police chase while driving to care for a patient. In her memory, Home Health VNA awards the Lisa Santiago Ventura Memorial Scholarship to a graduating senior of Greater Lawrence Technical School where she was once a student.

"I worked really hard, but I was still surprised and excited to receive the scholarship," said Tejada-Cruz. "It means a lot and I'm very grateful."

Theresa Hurley, lead instructor in the Health and Medical Assisting program at Greater Lawrence Technical School, said Tejada-Cruz's special combination of dedication and innate compassion for people in need make her "more than well prepared" for her chosen profession.

"Being a CNA is a hard job, but Yeneli smiles when she talks about helping patients in her care," Hurley said. "She is a natural leader who will go far in her nursing career."

Tejada-Cruz has already received her OSHA, Home Health Aide, Caring

for People with Alzheimer's Disease, Basic Life Support, CPR and First Aid certifications. She works as both as a CNA at Sutton Hill Center in Andover and as a pharmacy technician at Walgreens in Lawrence.

At Sutton Hill Center, Tejada-Cruz said it makes her happy when the residents call out her name in greeting upon her arrival.

"I like talking to them, making them laugh and hearing their stories," said Tejada-Cruz, whose knowledge and understanding of each individual help her identify behavioral changes. In addition, her lifelong interest in healthcare has been further strengthened through her role as a family caregiver for her father and grandmother.

"That experience has opened my eyes. I've been strong for them, and I've learned a lot," she said. "I know I can handle anything in my future."

Karen Gomes, RN, MS, CPHQ, President and Chief Executive Officer of Home Health Foundation, said she is looking forward to following Tejada-Cruz's healthcare career in college and beyond.

"Now more than ever, it is important to recognize the tremendous work that healthcare professionals perform daily," Gomes said.

"We present this scholarship to Yeneli proudly to support her in reaching her educational and professional goals, which will in turn help countless others throughout our communities." ◊

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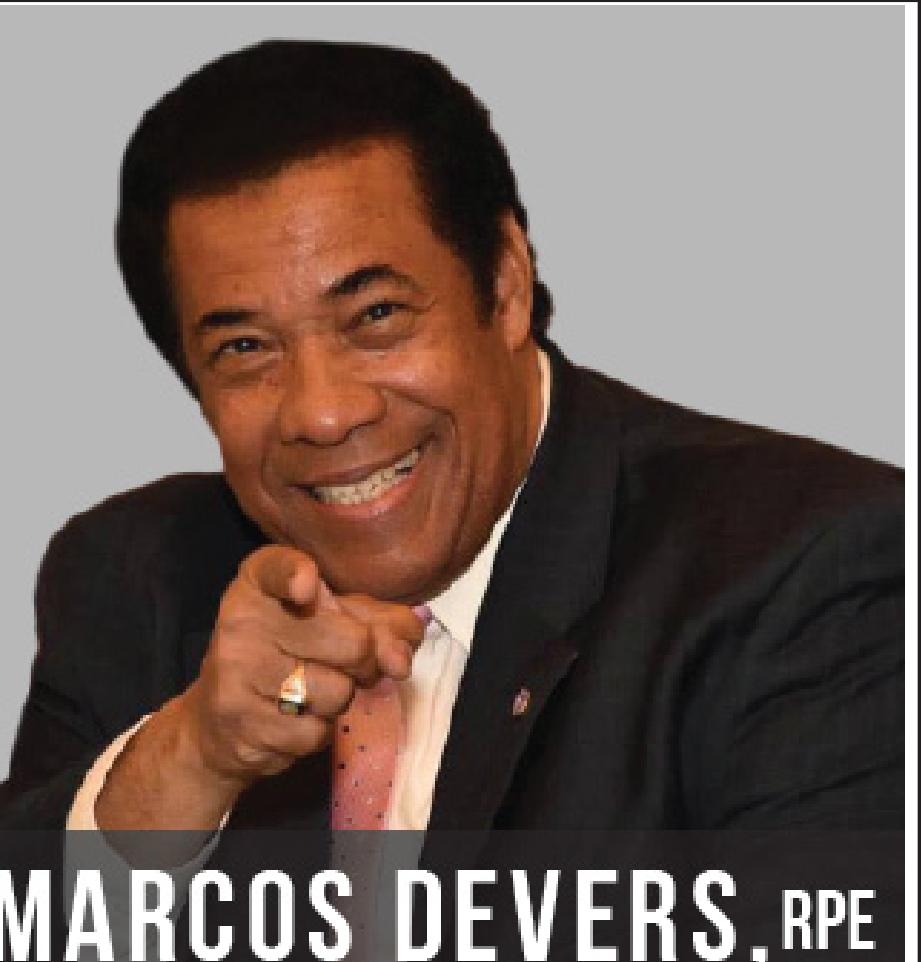
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Property Sales, Foreclosures for MAY, 2022 in Andover, Lawrence, Methuen, North Andover. (All properties are listed in order; seller, buyer, price, address.)



Northern Essex Registry of Deeds

M. Paul Iannuccillo, Register

ANDOVER

Rauh Realty Tr & Thomas & Lisa Rauh Tr, Jue Zhang & Lidong Yang, 3,550,000, 12-14 Regency Ridge
 CA Investment Tr & Yvon Cormier Tr, Augustus & Jennifer Mazzocca, 2,482,000, 12 Trevin Cir
 Eric & Samantha Halverson, Keith & Joanna Baldwin, 2,450,000, 37 Andover Country Club Ln
 Zhengrong Chen & Yan Gu, Lindsay & Scott Irving, 2,408,000, 7 Barron Ct
 Flora & Mark Mcquillen, Jody Skoutas, 2,400,000, 53 Salem St
 99 Remainder IV LLC & Double 9 Property IV LLC, Store Master Funding XXVI LLC, 2,352,980, 464 Lowell St
 Gianna Design Group LLC, Stefan Balan & Mariann Micsinai-Balan, 1,800,000, 59 Central St
 Robert & Angela Casazza & Angela Short, Chang & Soo Jo, 1,800,000, 2 Fraser Dr
 Aycardi Living Tr & Clara Calderon Tr & Ernesto Aycardi Tr, Kurt & Theresa Eichenwald, 1,735,000, 1 Deerberry Ln
 Gang Liu & Jie Yao, Bulent & Tugba Kiziltan, 1,350,000, 102 Bellevue Rd
 Aldo & Mary-Kay Esposito, Erkan Family Tr & Gulash & Murat Erkan Tr, 1,310,000, 25 Bateson Dr
 Bolliger Realty Tr & Linda & Glen Bolliger Tr, Xiangjun Tian & Jing Zheng, 1,125,000, 3 Inwood Ln
 Stephen & Colleen McLaughlin, Sohaib Anwar & Farzana Azeem, 1,075,000, 7 Tiffany Ln
 Jason H Gordon & Nelsy M Gordon Living Tr & Jason & Nelsy Gordon, Sean Gerrin & Stephanie Eng, 1,053,000, 4 Sparta Way
 Geoffrey & Debra Lansberry, Travis & Kelly Strickland, 1,050,000, 7 Blackberry Ln
 John & Elaine Keenan, Paul & Marissa King, 1,050,000, 27 Wildwood Rd
 Lisa Ferreira & Lisa & Ryan Shepard, Xinyi Zhang & Yang Zhou, 1,030,000, 219 High Plain Rd
 50 Whittier Street Realty Tr & Cynthia Kelley Tr & Kenneth Hoffman Tr, Douglas Ahern & Janet Mitchell, 995,000, 50 Whittier St
 Michele & Christopher Fournier, Biran & Molly Lowell, 975,000, 7 Waverly Dr
 Robing Gorski-Routhier, Brandon & Ali Sisson, 950,000, 51 Ballardvale Rd
 Christopher & Archana Vitale, Sinan & Dhakshayini Meric, 945,000, 3 Farrwood Dr
 Francis & Jane Ferrara, Providakes Irrevocable Tr & Harry Providakes Tr, 925,000, 32 Martingale Ln Unit 16
 Francis & Patricia Kucharski, Valkal Bhatt & Emily Patterson, 920,000, 6 Random Ln
 William & Caroline Buchanan, Courtney Lacey, 920,000, 61 Blanchard St
 Pamela Poindexter & Robert Peacock, Raymond Puntoni & Valerie Peacock, 900,000, 11 Paulornette Cir
 Peter & Beth Edelstein, Eric Frishman & Brian Samuels, 855,000, 4 Russett Ln
 Donna & Gwynn Crowther III, Alison Towle, 841,000, 15 Porter Rd
 David & Sarah Croteau & Sarah Bradbury, Camile Fantini & Christina Rusinak, 815,000, 8 Sutherland St
 Richard Retelle, Daniel & Molly Brodmerkel, 725,000, 15 Hall Ave
 Ronald Wiltshire Jr, Yang Xue & Shiyuan Dong, 707,000, 45 Marilyn Rd
 Rajat & Michelle Ghosh, Nicholas Brown & Caitlin Buckley, 695,000, 149 Haverhill St
 MV Realty Tr & Felicia Lazarakis Tr, Josiah & Katelynn Brann, 685,000, 25 River Rd

John & Heather Hill, Stephen & Caroline Pisani, 660,000, 36 Corbett St

Becca Tacy, Richard & Elizabeth Diodati, 650,000, 35 Juliette St
 Edison & Thu Wong, Lisa Defronzo, 640,000, 76 Chestnut St
 Nancy Salafia, Thomas Kirumira & Harriet Nalubega, 630,000, 21 Kenilworth Pulte Homes of New England LLC, Simin Batchelder, 618,030, 6 Overlook Dr Unit 409

Pulte Homes of New England LLC, Daniel & Kathleen Gunnery, 610,445, 6 Overlook Dr Unit 405

Pulte Homes of New England LLC, Kenneth & Stephanie Burd, 597,995, 6 Overlook Dr Unit 401

Pulte Homes of New England LLC, Yuying Jiang & Huiwei & Haoxing Guan, 579,370, 6 Overlook Dr Unit 408

Pulte Homes of New England LLC, Brian & Karen McCarthy, 577,245, 6 Overlook Dr Unit 304

Pulte Homes of New England LLC, George & Frnacine Tsoukalas, 568,450, 6 Overlook Dr Unit 309

Pulte Homes of New England LLC, Susan Watson, 558,990, 6 Overlook Dr Unit 403

Pulte Homes of New England LLC, Albert & Eileen Long, 551,195, 6 Overlook Dr Unit 308

Daniel & Kathleen Gunnery, Barbara Lynne Pathak Revocable Living Tr & Barbara Pathak Tr, 549,900, 1 Francis Dr Unit 411

Pulte Homes of New England LLC, Janet & Hiroshi Kazo, 544,635, 6 Overlook Dr Unit 402

Pulte Homes of New England LLC, Jenny Lau, 504,530, 6 Overlook Dr Unit 407

ELB Nominee Realty Tr & Nancie Guilmet Tr & Michelle Diorio & Michelle Hodgdon Tr, 430 Lowell St Nominee Tr & Sasha Weinrich Tr, 450,000, 430 Lowell St

Dat Nguyen & Thu Tran, John Clark, 332,500, 16 Balmoral St Unit 221

Constance D Boretti Revocable Tr & Constance Boretti Tr, Susan Sheldon, 317,000, 16 Balmoral St Unit 219

Charlotte Martellini, David & Carol Hawkins, 265,000, 257 North Main St Unit 8

Linda Encarnacao, Quincy & Others Realty Tr & George & Maryann Schad Tr, 255,000, 50A Washington Park Dr Unit 4

M Finnegan Living Tr & K Finnegan Living Tr & Michael Finnegan Tr & Katelyn Finnegan Tr, Michael Finnegan, 250,000, 17 Messina Dr

David George, Lynne Kiley & Lynn Deflorio, 200,000, 12 Stevens Cir

Andover Community Trust Inc, Lucy Gomez, 181,600, 8 Lupine Rd Unit 5

Andover Community Trust Inc & Essex County Habitat for Humanity, Juana Duarte, 181,600, 8 Lupine Rd Unit 6

Phyllis Friedberg & Phyllis Speiler, South Bay Properties LLC II, 144,000, 138 Haverhill St Unit A-2

S & R Construction Concepts Inc, Louis Riendeau-Quintal & Nicole Couture, 1,100,000, 123 Andover St

Pulte Homes of New England LLC, Winifred M Douglas 2020 Revocable Tr & Winifred Douglas Tr, 579,700, 6 Overlook Dr Unit 404

Yueping Xu & Tian Wang, Andover Islamic Center, 320,000, 204 Andover St Unit 501

LAWRENCE

Charles & Clement Cote, Zachary Fahey, 1,800,000, 284 South Broadway
 Calderons Property Management LLC, 23-25 Pleasant St LLC, 1,200,000, 23-25 Pleasant St
 Raymond & Kandie Fredette, Daniel Santos, 850,000, 112-114 Exeter St

Antonia Cardona, Alome & Luyisa Deleon, 780,000, 52 Montgomery St

George Infante & Raquel Deinfante, Jomaris Pena & Roberto Lopez, 765,000, 96-98 Bennington St

Catalina Bisono, Lisanda Bisono, 700,000, 31-31A Exchange St

Elena Valdez, Sixto Peralta & Santa Martinez, 700,000, 217 Prospect St

Antonio Martins, Neftali Aracena & Monica Trinidad, 683,030, 27-29 Dorchester St

Marizol Vidal & Thomas Infante Est, Progresso LLC, 667,000, 24 Bennett St

Paulina Morel, Adonis & Nathali Lopez, 660,000, 10-12 Maurice Ave

Mike Molina, Raymon & Aliandy Martinez, 650,000, 31-33 Milton St

Andrei & Erica Medeiros & Erica Andrade, Marelin Augusto & Fatima Deseverino, 648,000, 1-3 Storrow Ter

Stephanie De Los Angeles, Rubel Pena & Brianna Morel, 640,000, 27-29 Wyman St

Miguel Martinez, Carmen Gonzaelz & Ricardo Rodriguez, 630,000, 117 Margin St

Marina & Estefania Lockward & Anderson Reyna, Jorge Martinez, 630,000, 116-118 Bowdoin St

Allyson Fournier, Raldy Amparo & Nicaurys Placido, 608,000, 10 Carleton St

Wanda Warner & Jose Rosa, Yonaidy Molina & Yomeily Martinez, 600,000, 64 Haverhill St

JF Bernardin Realty Tr & John F Bernardin Tr, Yandeira Natal & Mayerny Dejesus, 585,000, 31 Bellevue St

Nelson Rovelo, Ilda Rovelo, 550,000, 12-14 Florence Ave

Elizabeth Nghiem, Yenda Silvestre, 547,000, 14 Osgood St

Gary Schneider, Paola Fernandez, 524,900, 531-537A Broadway

Eric & Susan Carpenter, Sarah Ohrin, 520,000, 118-120 Everett St

Elizabeth Kelley, Gissell Salas, 520,000, 10-10A Kendall St

Tomas Jimenez, Darvi Lantigua & Derling Frias, 510,000, 32 Ridge Rd

Lam Bui & Ai Le, Henry Acosta & Mindallia Delacruz & Joshy Rodriguez, 510,000, 17 Marique Dr

Grandview Realty Tr & Kenneth Daher Tr, Xavier Garcia & Lillian Santiago, 505,000, 18 Cornish Rd

Stephanie Melanson, Roberto Alvarado & Hoshimi Liang, 480,000, 26 Montrose Ave

Wilfredo Santiago, Lorenzo Hernandez & Mikelia Jimenez, 480,000, 70-72 Eutaw St

John & Geraldine Fitzgerald, Marel & Wilington Martinez, 460,000, 9 Crestwood Cir

Sonia Rosario, Nolvin Alvarado & Ovedita Polanco, 450,000, 186A East Haverhill St

Ana & Roberto Fernandez, Carlos Prena & Rosa Villalona, 450,000, 15 Florence Ave

Randy Baez & Raysa Cabrera, Rosanna Delrosario & Eddy Mendez, 446,000, 46 Juniper St

Elias Kanj, Margarita Gonzalez & Deyanira Mateo, 440,000, 8 Sumner Ave

107 Everett St LLC, Daniel Arias, 430,000, 107 Everett St

Jose & Leslie Villa, Wendy Almanzar, 430,000, 275 Cypress Ave

Ricardo Decastro, Francis Martinez & Gabriel Garcia, 425,000, 255 South Broadway

Aderito Teixeira, Wilson Liberato, 410,000, 44 Portland St

Carmela Castillo, Bivek Shrestha & Maria Leon, 405,000, 61 Pleasant St

Robert Osullivan & Mihcal Finn, Karla Obando & Sara Miranda, 400,000, 3 Jefferson St

Lafrance Family Real Estate Tr & James Lafrance Tr, Manuel Sanchez-Aybar,

William Francis Galvin

Secretary of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts

400,000, 20 Cabot Rd

Katherine Lahaye, William Gutierrez & Maria Rodriguez, 385,000, 41 Warren St

Daniel Aquino & Milagros Alvarado, Miguel Geraldino, 350,000, 39 Spruce St

Hector Mena, Mary Decruz & Lucely & Joseline Ynoa, 345,000, 234 Mount Vernon St Unit 2

Thang Pham & Ngocsang Duong, Yesson Berroa, 330,000, 1 Berkeley Ct

Jose & Frine Lopez, Yoconda Montez,

315,000, 182-184 Saratoga

K & S Realty Tr & Cheryl Stanuchenski Tr, Lawrence ICA Realty Tr, 300,000, 190 South Union St

Paulino Enterprise LLC, Carlos Castillo, 300,000, 8 Greenwood St Unit D

Deborah Holland Est & Lisa Henry, Jessica Brown, 292,000, 99 Pelham St Unit 2

Kelly Santer, Clemente Duran-Vasquez & Natividad Gabin-Ortega, 280,000, 332 Prospect St

Anthony Gabrielson & Jaimie Champagne, Shavil Jani & Honey Sharma, 231,000, 88 Beacon St Unit 5

Matthew Dufresne, Rachnabai Bafna & Munjal, Chetan, & Ruchir Shah, 230,000, 90 Beacon St Unit 7

Elliot Realty Tr & Robert Donahue Tr, Melyned Figueroa, 221,000, 312 Water St Unit 34

Kenneth Bergeron, Edward Vo, 215,000, 244 Mount Vernon St Unit 5

CASA Logistics LLC, Patricia Vasquez, 200,000, 272 East Haverhill St Unit 19

Regis Holdings LLC, Luis Vargas & Wallasse Jiminian, 175,000, 88 Beacon St Unit 4

Regis Holdings LLC, Luis Vargas & Wallasse Jiminian, 175,000, 90 Beacon St Unit 9

William Stahle Jr Est & Anne Stahle Est & Amanda & William Stahle & Carolyn Bobryk, Andrew Menery & Menery Properties LLC, 160,000, 10 Spring St

Salvatore Toscano, Rolando Ramirez, 150,000, 11 Lawrence St Unit 108

METHUEN

Twin Coast Properties LLC, LJP LLC, 3,375,179, 486 Broadway

Kirk & Broadway Realty Tr & John & Judy Motta Ind Tr,

620,000, 18 Freeport Ave
Toll Ma Land III LP, Susan Scandore
Living Tr & Susan Scandore Tr, 615,917, 68
Phoebe St Unit 87
Ezequiel Meran, Samuel & Jackie
Kamuanga, 600,000, 3 Duma Rd
Bernard Rastello Sr Est & Bernard
Rastello Est & Bernard Rastello Jr, Luiz
Dasilva & Eleniua Dasilveira, 600,000, 7
Erhardt Ter
Carol & Rodney Scribner, Evanjuli
Blanco & Domingo Balbuena, 580,000, 47
Bonnano Ct
William & Mary Beeley, Jose Castro,
580,000, 31 Cochrane Cir
Blanca Escobar, Michael Osiris & Nancie
Cadet-Rimpel, 570,000, 243 Jackson St
Alberto Gonzalez & Doris Posada,
Carmela & Michael Castillo, 570,000, 19
Clinton St
Dulce Espeso & Alan Navarro, Maria
Garcia & Victor Acevedo-Berroa, 550,000,
5 Woekel Ter
Brian & Donna Wolfendale Est & Ashley
Wolfendale, Judith Jean, 550,000, 11 Derry
Rd
Carlos Dasilva, Tania Peralta &
Anexandra Cid, 545,000, 78 Ayer St
Duher Real Estate Group LLC, Kayque
& Manuella Rodrigues, 525,000, 22 Varniai
St
Paul & Catherine Griffin, Wilky Anilus &
Lorvely Nazaire, 506,000, 17 Winthrop Ave
Timothy & Thomas Fram, Ana Lizardo &
Ricardo Olivo, 500,000, 44 Walton Ave
Dianne Tarquinio & Dianne Chase,
Johanny Mendoza & Jose Grullon, 500,000,
10 Schley St
Melody Matar & Melody Carabello,
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475,000, 115 Lawrence St
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Dorothy Taylor, Mary Fahey, 290,000, 34
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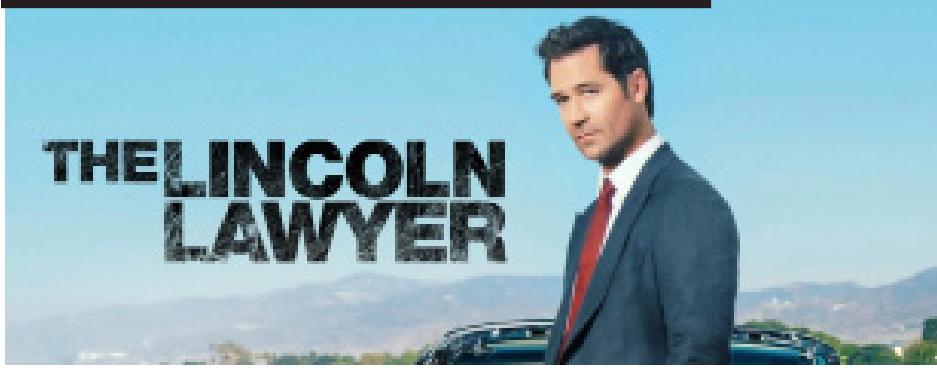
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TV TALK with BILL CUSHING



'The Lincoln Lawyer'

Bill Cushing

VALLEY PATRIOT TV COLUMNIST

In 2011, Matthew McConaughey starred in 'The Lincoln Lawyer,' a big-screen adaptation of Michael Connelly's series of legal thrillers featuring Mickey Haller. Now, Netflix has cast Manuel Garcia-Rulfo as Haller, the brilliant defense lawyer known for working mostly out of one of his Lincoln Town Cars of various vintages, or his Lincoln Navigator, as he travels the highways of the Greater Los Angeles area in service of his clients.

The series opens with Mickey on a hiatus of sorts. He hasn't worked in over a year due to a surfing accident that left him addicted to painkillers and led to him spending time in rehab. However, his career is jolted back to life when a colleague is murdered and leaves his entire practice to Mickey in his will.

While this is a big boost to Mickey's non-existent law practice, it also comes a big negative. Now he is inundated with cases that he knows nothing about. One of these cases is a 'Trial of the Century' style spectacle involving a video game mogul named Trevor Elliot, who was found by police standing over the bloody bodies of his wife and her lover.

Elliott proves to be an especially difficult client, but Mickey sees this as the case that could restore his career and is determined to give it all he has.

There's also the matter of the dead colleague and the police investigation into it. Did the killing have something to do with one of the cases Mickey inherited? Is he in danger now? It's quickly apparent that the answer to both questions is yes, giving birth to any number of intriguing—and deadly—subplots, each accompanied by a gut-wrenching episode cliffhangers.

The series was created by David E. Kelley, and he and co-writer Ted Humphrey seamlessly introduce several key characters into the proceedings, starting with Mickey's second and most recent ex-wife Lorna (Becki Newton), who runs Mickey's suddenly busy

office, and Maggie McPherson (Neve Campbell), a prosecutor who was Mickey's FIRST wife and the mother of their teenage daughter Hayley (Krista Warner).

Mickey's best friend and investigator sidekick, Cisco (Angus Sampson), has recently become engaged to Lorna, and Mickey seems fine with that because he and Lorna work better as friends than romantic partners. Besides, it is clear that Mickey still has feeling for Maggie.

'The Lincoln Lawyer' is fast-moving and packed with action. Garcia-Rulfo may not quite live up to McConaughey's magnetism in the role, but his casting is key to the series' success. In the novels, Haller is half Mexican, and the series enhances his Mexican heritage in a way that the film does not. Garcia-Rulfo plays Mickey as if he never gets more than three hours' sleep a night, yet confidently explores the character's flaws, shrewdness and feeling to build a fine-tuned performance.

While the novels also reveal that Mickey is the half-brother of Connelly's other famous character, Harry Bosch, it is unclear if the series will also reveal that part of the story or if we might see Titus Welliver make an appearance as Harry. Probably unlikely, since 'The Lincoln Lawyer' and 'Bosch: Legacy' air on different networks. But it would be fun if they could work it out and cross over.

All of this combines for a very enjoyable, highly bingeable series that has a visually appealing style and makes good use of the L.A. locations.

'The Lincoln Lawyer' has already been renewed for a second season and is available to stream on Netflix.

If you have any questions about TV, you can email me at BillsTVTalk@gmail.com. I will answer all your questions and will feature some of the questions I receive in a future Mailbag column.

Follow me on Twitter @BillsTVTalk and on Facebook at BillsTVTalk for daily up-to-the-minute TV news and discussion.

◊

WEATHER 101 with AL KAPRIELIAN

SUMMER IS HERE!

Welcome to June which will be the official start of the summer season. The summer solstice this year will occur on Tuesday, June 21st at 5:13 AM. June 1st was the start of hurricane season for our part of the world. This year, the prediction is for 14-21 named storms, the average is 14 so another year with above normal tropical weather is predicted.

Of the 14-21 named storms, 6-10 will become hurricanes with winds of 74 miles per hour or greater. The prediction is for 3-6 major hurricanes with a category of 3, 4, and 5. There are 5 categories hurricanes are rated in terms of intensity, with 5 being the most severe. Time will tell how accurate this year's prediction will be. Hurricanes form over the warm tropical ocean waters where the temperatures of these ocean waters are 80 degrees or higher. When a hurricane moves over land, it loses the heat energy it gets from the ocean and weakens. Also, the friction over land areas including mountains, causes the wind speeds to decrease. Recapping, May averaged 2.1 degrees above normal for Boston. There were no days when the temperature reached 90 degrees or higher in May for Boston. There were 5 days when high temperature got into the 80s in Boston.

The total rainfall in May for Boston was 1.32 inches, which is almost 2 inches below normal. As a result of this, conditions are quite dry for our area. Even though Boston did not reach 90 degrees in May, areas farther inland from the chilly ocean did. For example, Lowell got to 90 degrees or higher 3 times in May.

They reached 90 degrees on May 15th and 16th and had a high temperature of 97 degrees on May 23. Summerlike temperatures occurred as the middle of the month came. The chill of recent weeks and months was a thing of the past. It was time to put the heavier coats away and bring out the tee shirts and shorts. Some tips for hot summer weather are as follows: drink plenty of water and stay hydrated, wear light colors and light weight clothing (t-shirts and shorts). Light color clothing absorbs less heat from the sun, which will make you cooler. Refrain from strenuous outdoor activities like running or jogging. Perform these

activities before sunrise or after sunset.

If your job has you working outside, take frequent water breaks and get into a shaded area if possible. Check in on elderly family members and neighbors. Even though there were some hot days in May, there were no heat waves. A heat wave is defined as 3 or more consecutive days of 90 degrees or higher.

We are also getting to the time of year when thunderstorms occur. Remember if you are outside and hear thunder go inside your home or building and stay away from windows. If you hear thunder, that is warning that the lightning is nearby where you could be struck. After the thunderstorm has ended you should remain indoors for 30 minutes before going back outside. Also, during thunderstorms stay away from trees, lakes, pools, and the ocean. Also stay off ball fields, golf courses, and tennis courts. Lightning hits the highest objects, and you would not be safe if you are at the areas I just mentioned. If you get a severe thunderstorm and the strong winds caused power lines to fall to the ground, stay away and do not touch these wires!! Call your utility company and report wires are down in your area. If you lose power this summer due to a severe thunderstorm, make sure if you use your generator it is well away from the house!

Never run a generator in the garage! When at the beach and the ocean is choppy, with large surf, make sure you listen to the lifeguards. They are at the beach for your protection!! On Memorial Day, May 30th, we had a hot summer day. Many areas reached into the upper 80s with some areas just missing 90 degrees. Even though the air was hot, ocean temperatures were still in the middle 50's, especially north of Boston. Remember if you go into the ocean and its below 60 degrees hypothermia can occur if you stay in the ocean for a prolonged time.

Ocean temperatures will continue to rise as we go through the month of June. Will we get a lot of hot weather in June? Any heat wave?

How will hurricane development be?

Stay tuned to next month's article for the answers. In the meantime enjoy the end of spring and the start of summer!! Stay Safe!! ◊

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CITIZENSHIP FROM PAGE 2

the wiser. I wonder how many of them are crying pro-life with baby skeletons in their closet. I digress. Forced pregnancies are cruel, sadistic, detrimental to women's physical, mental, and emotional health not to mention being completely unconstitutional. It is the legal re-raping of women. No female should be forced to carry full term-ever! In any circumstance, especially in the cases of rape and incest. The term "unconsensual intercourse" has been used. A euphemism used by men for rape to make it sound less violent and invasive. It's a disgusting term.

If this comes to fruition, will the government cover the costs of medical care throughout the pregnancy and birth? It shouldn't be the baby receptacle's responsibility. I refrain from using the term "mother" especially if the woman has chosen not to be one. She has been reduced to a baby receptacle; a pez dispenser of sorts for tiny beings. What about the rapist? What will his consequences be? Rape again with impunity? What lifetime costs will he pay?

Why is so much effort being put into the unborn child? Well, they cost nothing to those who advocate for them. It sounds good on the surface: protect those who can't protect themselves. If you were to protect the young girls who are being raped and molested, that would cost money. It would require time and effort and empathy from the right. They don't want that and yet they are fighting to create an army of children that they will ignore when they're born, refuse to help the mother, refuse to fund healthcare, preschool, daycare, and other programs that will give them a head start and then say, "See, they can't even help themselves." Then they'll use this to defund these programs and wonder why crime and poverty are so high. And if they're shot and killed in school? Even better. The problem was taken care of for the Right. Scream it's mental health, not guns and let more families bury their babies.

America: land of the free home of the white and wealthy. Forever claiming to protect family values while denying medical care to those most in need, providing unpaid maternity leave and no paternity leave and sending our children to be fish in a barrel. Places like Bulgaria,

Estonia and even South Korea take better care of their families with an average of 60 PAID weeks of maternity leave. Some superpower you are, America. Where are those Christian values you scream about?

If women of poverty are forced to give birth to a child that they don't want and don't want to carry, will they get time off to recover from doing so? What services will be provided? Will she be paid for time off? Doubt it. Let us not forget that many of these "women" will be girls under the age of 18 who have been victimized once by their rapist and again by the law that is telling them, the life inside you-created from violence-is more important than yours.

According to one study done by the CDC in 2019, 3 million women have experienced a rape-related pregnancy. Three million! That means, there are three million rapists. Will the government force three million women to have unwanted children? Why is this acceptable? There are over 135,000 children waiting to be adopted. Now, there will be 300,135,000 who will be waiting to be adopted. Let that sink in. But, then again, they'll be born. They are not the unborn. They don't matter especially if you are a child of color, poverty, or LGBTQ+, then I imagine the right will be kicking themselves for not aborting them. I wonder if eugenics will have a new rise and come with in utero tests to get rid of babies they believe will be born LGBTQ+. Sterilize members of the LGBTQ+ community. Tell women of color they're being tested for "bad blood" and act surprised when they lose their babies. It can, has and will be done again all under the blanket terms of "National Security" and "Protecting the American Family."

Sound far fetched? The law reaching into my vagina and uterus is even more so. Let's have a little quid pro quo, shall we? Boys of a certain age should be required to get vasectomies AND attend sensitivity training until the age of 18. If they don't pass, they cannot have children. The vasectomy is not my idea, but I think it's a great one. If we can force a woman to have a child, it's only fair that certain men not be allowed to have any if they can't behave as fully evolved human beings. But, that won't happen. Men will find it invasive. Leave their bodies alone. ♦

What Time Is It?

Peter Larocque

VALLEY PATRIOT COLUMNIST

God's Riches Blessing on all of you, in the wonderful and Powerful name of our Risen Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ!

The times we are living in are not getting any lighter, in fact they are getting darker and darker. The events of the last few weeks have proven this again, they were devastating and horrific in nature because they come from all that is evil, the devil. Because these events are so terrible, mankind tries to explain them by assigning blame. It's the Democrats, it's the Republicans or it's the fault of too many guns.

Maybe for some of you the truth is too simplistic, but I refer to the Bible for my Truth. According to Ephesians 5:15-16, we read, "See then that you walk circumspectly, not as fools but as wise, 16 redeeming the time, because the days are evil." NKJV. Notice the Bible says that in spite the days being evil, we can walk and live wisely.

We as Christians are instructed in Romans 13:11-14, "And do this, knowing the time, that now it is high time to awake out of sleep; for now, our salvation is nearer than when we first believed. 12 The night is far spent, the day is at hand. Therefore let us cast off the works of darkness, and let us put on the armor of light. 13 Let us walk properly, as in the day, not in revelry and drunkenness, not in lewdness and lust, not in strife and envy. 14 But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to fulfill its lusts." NKJV. It is clear by these passages that God wants us to Know the Time! What time is that you may ask? The times we are living in!

The question I hear constantly being asked is, how can a loving God allow these evil acts to keep on happening? This question keeps being asked because people do not know the time, we are living in, which is crucial in knowing the answer!

Jesus Christ himself said in Luke 4:18-19, "The Spirit of the LORD is upon Me, Because He has anointed Me To preach the gospel to the poor; He has sent Me to heal the brokenhearted, To proclaim liberty to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to set at liberty those who are oppressed; 19 To proclaim the acceptable year of the LORD." NKJV. Then the following verses go on to say, Luke 4:20-21, "Then He closed the book, and gave it back to the attendant and sat down. And the eyes of all who were in the synagogue were fixed on Him. 21 And He began to say to them, "Today this Scripture is fulfilled in your hearing." NKJV. We are still living in the acceptable year of the Lord! The word acceptable is the Greek word, dektos, which means a time when God's favor profusely abounds! God's favor is another

way of saying God's Grace. God's Grace is God's Unearned, Unmerited, Undeserved Favor. We are living in a time where God's Grace not God's Judgment profusely abounds! God's Judgment is coming, and is still future. This is why Jesus closed the book, because if he kept on, he would have read the next phrase in this scripture which was taken from Isaiah 61:2, "and the day of vengeance of our God," NKJV. Jesus knew then like we should know now that we are not living in the time of God taking vengeance! If we were this world would be under a very different rule of order. Knowing the times in which we live is a time of God's Grace makes all the difference. Also, Jesus couldn't have said, "this day is this scripture fulfilled in your hearing."

But make no mistake, this time is ending soon. But for now, God's Favor, God's Grace rules the day. Why? Because over two thousand years ago a lonely man hung on the cross and took on himself all of God's judgment, all of God's anger and vengeance and absorbed it all in his body on the cross! That should have been us on that Cross, but Jesus Himself stepped into our death, a death that we deserved because the Bible says in Romans 6:23, "the wages of sin is death!" NKJV. It was our sin that put him on the cross. He became our substitute. He died our death. The Bible says in Galatians 3:13, "Christ has redeemed us from the curse of the law, having become a curse for us (for it is written, "Cursed is everyone who hangs on a tree"), NKJV. The curse, meaning God's wrath, God's anger and all that goes with it that you can read about in Deuteronomy 28:15-68. But for now, God's Grace abounds!!! For How long? The Bible says in 2 Peter 3:9, "The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some count slackness, but is longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance." NKJV. What promise is this referring to? The Promise of His return, John 14:1-4, "Let not your heart be troubled; you believe in God, believe also in Me. 2 In My Father's house are many mansions; if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. 3 And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself; that where I am, there you may be also. 4 And where I go you know, and the way you know." NKJV.

So, what do we do until Jesus returns? Instead of assigning blame, let's tell everybody we know about God's love and how He gave us Jesus, His Son to be our Savior! Time is running out my friends!!! Do you know what time it is???

Love you all,
Peter Larocque
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